

periodic

Magical Cicada



Periodic Cicadas



Periodic cicadas are insects that emerge from the soil every so many years. The genus *Magical* is found in North America and has a life cycle of 13 or 17 years, the longest of any insect. Often mistaken for locusts, these cicadas usually have black bodies, lacy wings, and bulging red eyes. The males "sing" to attract mates by using a pair of tymbals, or ridged membranes, found on their abdomens. Some of the larger species can produce a call over 120 decibels.

Female cicadas lay eggs in plant stems. The babies hatch as wingless nymphs and feed on the plant briefly before falling to the ground. They burrow deep in the ground, attaching themselves to roots. They will live in their subterranean "nursery" for many years feeding and molting, and after a certain period (sometimes many years), they dig their way to the surface, usually late spring or early summer. After shedding, the cicadas will only survive another 4-6 weeks, spending their days looking for mates.

Cicadas are annoying yet harmless to humans, as they do not sting or bite. They may cause minimal damage to trees and plants. Many animals love to gorge themselves on cicadas, including birds, toads, dogs, and the Cicada Killer Wasp.

Biology: Order the following 4 stages of insect metamorphosis from the earliest to the latest in development: adult, larva, egg, pupa

Cicada illustration by Shawn Gould
Photograph by Donald Lewis, Iowa State University Extension
Cicada shell image courtesy of Arthur D. Guilani

Answer: egg - larva - pupa - adult

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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| | May 2007 S M T W Th F S 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | July 2007 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 SAT Test Date |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Flag Day | 15 | 16 ACT Test Date |
| 17 Father's Day | 18 | 19 Juneteenth | 20 | 21 National Middle School Science Bowl | 22 National Middle School Science Bowl | 23 National Middle School Science Bowl |
| 24 National Middle School Science Bowl | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

june 2007